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FORTY-EIGHTH

ANNUAL REPORT

AS TO THE

SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Foleshill Rural District,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER, 1923,

BY

HAROLD G. WEBSTER,

M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond.

MAP OF

FOLESHILL RURAL DISTRICT.

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13 PARISHES.

TO THE

Foleshill Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

I beg to present herewith my Third Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Foleshill Rural District for the Year 1923.

This is again an Ordinary Report, as per instructions of the Ministry of Health.

A map of the District is given, showing the surrounding Local Authorities.

The most noticeable particular is the large number of cases of Scarlet Fever for the year, for which increase I am unable to assign a cause within our control.

The Death Rate of infants under one year is still very satisfactory, and shews the work done by the Infant Welfare Centres.

General Statistics.

Area (Acres)	19,068
Population (1923)	35,250
Number of Inhabited Houses (1923) ...	7,023
Rateable Value	£123,772
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate ...	£459

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Births	Legitimate	867	438	429	Birth Rate, 25·07.
	Illegitimate	17	4	13	
Deaths ...		301	161	140	Death Rate, 8·53.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, Childbirth ... ... From Sepsis ... —
„ Other Causes 1

Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births:
Legitimate, 65·61; Illegitimate, 0; Total, 65·61.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	7
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	0
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) ...	4

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.		Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria		5	2	
Scarlet Fever...		145	141	1
Enteric Fever, including Para-typhoid		1	1	—
Puerperal Fever		1	—	—
Pneumonia		35	—	28
Other Diseases Generally Notifiable		20	—	—
Other Diseases Notified Locally (Chickenpox)		57	—	—
Tuberculosis—				
(a) Pulmonary ...	M	24	—	13
	F	30	—	11
	Total	54		
(b) Non-Pulmonary ...	M	5	—	4
	F	8	—	5
	Total	13		

Analysis of Total Cases Notified under the Various Age Groups.

Disease.		Total.	Under 1 Year.	1 Year.	2 Years.	3 Years.	4 Years.	5 Years.	10 Years.	15 Years.	20 Years.	35 Years.	45 Years.	65 Years and Over.
Diphtheria		5	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever... ...		145	—	2	5	10	13	64	38	4	7	2	—	—
Enteric ,, ...		1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Puerperal Fever ...		1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia		35	—	1	2	1	1	4	2	6	12	1	4	1
Other Diseases Generally Notifiable		20	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	4	3	8	1
Other Diseases Notified Locally (Chickenpox) ...		57	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—														
(a) Pulmonary ...	M.	24	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	3	12	3	—	1
	F.	30	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	3	14	5	2	—
(b) Non-Pulmonary	M.	5	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	—
	F.	8	1	—	—	1	—	—	4	—	2	—	—	—

Analysis of Total Deaths Notified under the Various Age Groups.

Diphtheria		2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever... ...		1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric ,, ...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever ...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia		28	9	6	3	—	—	3	—	1	1	1	2	2
Other Diseases Generally Notifiable		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases Notified Locally		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—														
(a) Pulmonary ...	M.	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	11	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Non-Pulmonary	M.	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	Cases			Vision Un-impaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blind-ness.
	Notified.	Treated.				
		At Home.	In Hospital.			
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	—	3	—	—

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1923.

We are indebted to the Registrar-General for the following statement shewing the birth-rates and death-rates and the rate of infantile mortality in England and Wales and in certain parts of the country during the Year 1923.

Table X.—Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1923.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1923, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1922. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns).

—	Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Population.	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population.									Rate per 1,000 Births.		Percentage of Total Deaths.		
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping-cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhœa and Enteritis (under 2 years).	Total Deaths under One Year.	Causes of Death certified by Registered Medical Practitioners.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
England and Wales	19·7	11·6	0·01	0·00	0·14	0·03	0·10	0·07	0·22	0·44	7·7	69	92·0	6·9	1·1
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.	20·4	11·6	0·01	0·00	0·15	0·03	0·12	0·09	0·22	0·40	9·9	72	92·2	7·2	0·6
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000--50,000)	19·8	10·6	0·01	—	0·19	0·02	0·10	0·06	0·21	0·38	6·4	69	92·6	6·1	1·3
London	20·2	11·2	0·01	0·00	0·08	0·02	0·09	0·13	0·17	0·45	10·2	60	90·8	9·1	0·1

CIVILIANS ONLY.

CAUSES OF DEATH

IN

FOLESHILL RURAL DISTRICT, 1923.

	Causes of Death.	M.	F.
	ALL CAUSES	161	140
1	Enteric fever		
2	Small-pox		
3	Measles	6	1
4	Scarlet fever		1
5	Whooping cough		
6	Diphtheria	1	1
7	Influenza	4	
8	Encephalitis lethargica	1	
9	Meningococcal meningitis		
10	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	13	11
11	Other tuberculous diseases	4	5
12	Cancer, malignant disease	16	15
13	Rheumatic fever	3	1
14	Diabetes		4
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	7	8
16	Heart disease	19	13
17	Arterio-sclerosis	6	2
18	Bronchitis	11	8
19	Pneumonia (all forms)	10	9
20	Other respiratory diseases	2	
21	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	
22	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	3	1
23	Appendicitis and typhlitis		
24	Cirrhosis of liver	2	
25	Acute and chronic nephritis	5	3
26	Puerperal sepsis		
27	Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition		1
28	Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	7	22
29	Suicide	2	
30	Other deaths from violence	6	2
31	Other defined diseases	31	32
32	Causes ill-defined or unknown		
	Special Causes (included above)		
	Poliomyelitis		
	Polioencephalitis		
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year { Total	25	33
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year { Illegitimate ...		
	TOTAL BIRTHS	442	442
	Legitimate	438	429
	Illegitimate	4	13

Causes of Sickness.

No special causes of sickness and invalidity of a noteworthy character have occurred in the District during the year under review.

Professional Nursing in Home.

(a) General. There are two Voluntary Nursing Associations--one in the Parish of Bedworth and one in the Parish of Foleshill.

(b) Infectious Diseases. Nil.

MIDWIVES.—The number of Midwives practicing in the District is 12, and none of these subsidised by Public Health Authority.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres (Consultations).

Parish of	Bedworth Foleshill Stoke Heath Binley Keresley	Voluntary Committees. Services of County Health Visitors lent by County Council.

School Clinics.

Provided at Bedworth and Foleshill under the County Public Health Authority.

Tuberculosis.

Patients attend Dispensaries at Coventry and Nuneaton for treatment provided by the Coventry and Warwickshire Joint Committee for Tuberculosis.

Venereal Disease.

Treatment is provided at the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital by the Warwickshire County Council.

Hospitals.

(1) TUBERCULOSIS.—King Edward Memorial Hospital.
" Bramcote Sanatorium for Men, provided by the Coventry and Warwickshire Joint Committee.

(2) MATERNITY.—No hospital provided.

(3) CHILDREN.—District served by Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital.

(4) FEVER.—Joint Committee having taken over our Isolation Hospital at Exhall, arrangements were made for fever patients to be removed and treated in Coventry City Hospital.

(5) SMALL POX.—Hospital provided by a Joint Committee at Bramcote, but at present used as a Sanatorium by the Coventry and Warwickshire Joint Committee for Tuberculosis. In case of a serious epidemic of Small Pox, arrangements have been made for the Joint Committee to vacate the Hospital at a few hours' notice.

The Nuneaton and District Joint Hospital Committee, of which this Council forms part, are in agreement with the Coventry Corporation to receive cases of Small Pox occurring in the Joint Committee's area into the Hospital for Infectious Disease situate at Pinley, Coventry.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For Infectious Diseases.—Local Authority provides Ambulance for removal of Infectious Diseases.

(b) For Accident Cases.—St. John's Ambulance Association in Longford; also, Ambulances provided by local Colliery Companies.

Coventry City Ambulance may be had if payment guaranteed.

Laboratory Work.

Specimens of sputum are forwarded for bacteriological examination to Birmingham University, and the results are forwarded to me.

A stock of Diphtheria Antitoxin is kept at the Council Offices, and is issued to the Practitioners as they require it.

Notification of Births Act.

The supervision of this work is carried out by Health Visitors appointed by the Warwickshire County Council, and I have received a copy of the Health Visitors' Reports, which I append.

FOLESHILL INFANT REPORT, 1923.

During the year ending 31st December, 1923, I visited 386 new babies, and paid 505 re-visits.

Of the new babies, 289 were breast fed, 20 breast and bottle fed, and 77 bottle fed. I found that a number of young mothers wean their babies very quickly, under the mistaken idea that their milk does not suit the baby, or does not satisfy it. If these young mothers can be persuaded to attend an Infant Welfare Centre early enough, and see for themselves the weekly gain the baby is making, they realise, in many cases, that the milk supply is quite sufficient to keep the baby on the breast.

There were 87 boat bottles in use, and one long tube, I am sorry to say. I had hoped they had gone out altogether.

199 babies slept in cots, and 186 were without comforters, both figures being larger than those of last year.

363 babies were dressed in wool entirely next their skin. This proportion increases every year. There are very few badly-clothed infants found in the district.

There were fewer babies found in unsatisfactory health on first visiting also, 23 only, while 363 were satisfactory. I still found that children from one to three years need more care. This is a difficult time for most children, and the care and advice of the Doctor at the Centre is needed quite as much as in earlier months, though it is hard to get the mothers to realise this.

I made 106 attendances at the I.W.C.'s of Stoke Heath, Longford, Binley, and Keresley. There were 1,969 attendances of mothers and 2,353 of children at the Centres during the year.

(Signed) A. W. BAKER.

During the year ending 31st December, 1923, Mrs. Perren made 237 first visits to babies in Bedworth, and 105 re-visits were made.

Out of this number, only fifteen were bottle fed, and in no case was the long tubed bottle being used.

The clothing and health of the infants appeared satisfactory, only one case of neglect being reported.

The housing and sanitary conditions found when visiting notified births were, on the whole, good.

The total number of attendances of infants at the Bedworth I.W.C. up to five years of age was 1,706, there being 68 babies under 12 months on the register.

Sewage Works.

The Engineer and Surveyor (Mr. A. E. Newey) reports to me as follows with regard to Sewage Works in the District:—

BEDWORTH.

The Ministry of Health have held an Inquiry into the application of the Council for a loan to carry out the reconstruction of the Bedworth Sewage Works. This Scheme comprises four new circular bacteria beds, 86 ft. in diameter, two storm water tanks, sludge lagoons, and the replacing of a portion of the 12 in. C. I. outfall sewer with one 15 in. in diameter. It is anticipated that this Scheme will be commenced and completed during 1924.

FOLESHILL.

Two of the rectangular bacteria beds are now being taken down, the material washed, and rebuilt. These Works continue to give satisfaction.

My Report of last year mentioned the manner in which the sewage is dealt with in the Parishes of Exhall, Keresley, Shilton, Binley, Walsgrave-on-Sowe, Copsewood Estate, Stoke, and Stoke Heath, and the conditions are the same as were then stated.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) HAROLD G. WEBSTER,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Public Health Officers of the Council.

Dr. H. G. WEBSTER, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), Medical Officer of Health (part time).

ERNEST C. BOND, C.S.I., Sanitary Inspector. Canal Boats, Petroleum, and Scavenging Inspector. Designated Officer under Housing and Town Planning Act. Inspector under Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order (full time).

EDWIN H. ADAMS, C.S.I., Assistant Sanitary Inspector (full time).

NOTE.—In case of Medical Officer of Health and Chief Sanitary Inspector, half salary contribution is made from the County Exchequer's Account, under the Local Government Act of 1888.

Mr. Bond reports as follows :—

Scavenging.

The work of Scavenging is carried out in five Parishes of the District, viz., Bedworth, Exhall, Foleshill, Stoke, and Stoke Heath, with a total population of approximately 30,000 persons.

This work is carried out by Contractors, and has been done in a satisfactory manner, with the exception that, in one Parish, viz., Stoke, your Council deemed it necessary to cancel the contract of the firm, owing to the negligent manner in which they were doing the work. A fresh contract was entered into with another firm, and the work was proceeded with in a much more satisfactory way.

All the refuse collected is disposed of on tips in various parts of the Parishes. A few complaints have been received from persons living in the vicinity of these tips, and it was found necessary to engage a man in two of the Parishes to attend to the cleansing and soiling over of the tips, and I do not anticipate any more serious complaints from this source.

With regard to the Scavenging of the Parish of Exhall, the most unsatisfactory part of the work is in connection with the emptying of cesspools, of which there are a large number. I find that most of these cesspools are not water-tight, even in a great number of houses that have been erected this last few years, as most of them are constructed in waterlogged ground, and the consequence is that the subsoil water percolates through the brickwork and fills up the cesspool, the drains become choked, and soapsuds find their way into ditches, which in time become offensive and foul.

It seems to me that, in the near future, your Council will have no alternative, especially at the rate the Parish is growing, but to consider the question of the provision of a Sewerage Scheme for this Parish.

In the north-west portion of this Parish, a considerable number of houses are being erected by a Colliery Co., and I am very pleased to say that provision has been made by them for dealing with the sewage from same by an installation of a most up-to-date system.

With regard to two other Parishes in the District, viz., Binley and Wyken, a large number of houses owned by a Colliery Co. are scavenged by the owners, and this work is done in a satisfactory manner.

SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

The number of Sanitary Conveniences of each type in the five Parishes which are scavenged by your Council is as follows :—

Name of Parish.	Ashbins.	Water Closets.	Privies with Movable Receptacles.	Privies with Fixed Receptacles.	Dry Ashpits.	Cesspools.
Foleshill ...	1,973	1,738	64	45	30	14
Bedworth ...	1,954	1,512	111	74	31	7
Exhall ...	281	36	277	91	23	141
Stoke Heath...	689	689	—	—	—	—
Stoke ...	286	286	—	2	1	—
Total ...	5,183	4,261	452	212	85	162

In the tabulated statement above, the majority of privies with fixed and movable receptacles are situate in portions of the Parishes where no sewers are available.

Cowsheds, Dairies, and Milkshops Order.

Inspections have been carried out of Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops in the District during the year, and the premises have been found generally in a satisfactory condition. Only in one or two instances have I been compelled to ask for the reconstruction of the drainage system.

There are 101 Retail Milk Purveyors on the register, and 73 Wholesalers and Producers.

Offensive Trades.

The premises wherein these Trades are carried on have been inspected periodically, and have been found in a cleanly condition and the Trades carried on satisfactorily.

With regard to the complaint in my last Annual Report respecting a smell arising from a Bone Boiling Works, the Council have made Byelaws for the Regulation of all Offensive Trades in the District.

Public Notice has been given that the Council intend to apply to the Ministry of Health for conformation to its Byelaws, and it is anticipated to have the Byelaws in force in the course of a few weeks from the date of this Report.

Slaughterhouses.

There are nine registered and nineteen licenced Slaughterhouses in the eight Parishes covered by the Byelaws, and these premises have been frequently inspected, and found to have been kept in good condition.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

The Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces situate in the District have been visited, and the condition of the premises, also the sanitary conveniences, have been found in good order, with the exception of a few instances, where I have probably found a lavatory not in proper working order ; but, upon the receipt of a notice, the matters were speedily attended to.

Water Supply.

The Public Supply at Bedworth continues to give satisfaction, and I append a copy of the last analysis.

PUBLIC SUPPLY, BEDWORTH.

Result of Analysis, expressed in parts per 100,000.

Free and Saline Ammonia.	Albuminoid Ammonia.	Chlorine in Chlorides.	Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites.	Oxygen absorbed in Four Hours at 80 °F.	Total Solid Matter.	Hardness.		
						Temporary.	Permanent.	Total.
0·0005	0·002	4·100	0·220	0·019	50	12·7	20·8	33·5

Bright, few small particles.

3rd May, 1924.

The Coventry Corporation supply the Parishes of Foleshill, Binley, Exhall, Walsgrave-on-Sowe, and Keresley, and I understand that the Supply is very satisfactory.

The hamlet of Black Bank, in the Parish of Exhall, has been very badly off for a proper Supply, the Water being obtained from wells in the vicinity of the property. I was instructed to take samples of Water from these wells for analysis, and, in most of the cases, the Water was unfit for drinking purposes, and application has been made to the Coventry Corporation to extend their mains to supply this property, and I have every good reason to believe that this improvement will be carried out shortly.

Petroleum Acts.

During the year, 25 Licences were granted for the storage of Petroleum, and 9 for the storage of Carbide of Calcium.

Two prosecutions were undertaken during the year in respect of nuisances, viz., one relating to defective drainage on premises, and the other with respect to a nuisance arising from a factory chimney sending forth black smoke. In both instances, the Magistrates made an Order for the abatement of the nuisances upon the owners, and the Order was complied with in each case.

Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

(a) Total	72
(b) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme.	
Foleshill R.D.C. Housing Schemes...	8

Unfit dwelling-houses—

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	273
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	249
(3) Number of dwelling-houses which were found to be in a state so dangerous to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	23

Remedy of defects without service of formal notices.

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	23

Action under Statutory Powers.

(A) Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs...	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—	
(a) By owners	—
(b) By Local Authorities in default of owners ...	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intentions to close	—

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—	
(a) By owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1

Summary of Sanitary Work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department during the Year 1923, in the Rural Sanitary District of Foleshill.

		Inspections & Observations made.	Formal Notice by Authority.	Informal Notices.	Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling Houses & Schools.	Foul Conditions	23	3	7	7
	Structural Defects	104	3	33	30
	Overcrowding	48	4	6	2
	Unfit for Habitation	4	1	—	1
	Lodging Houses	—	—	—	—
	Dairies and Milkshops	162	—	2	2
	Cow Sheds	86	1	—	1
	Bakehouses	84	—	—	—
	Slaughter-Houses	210	1	—	1
	Canal Boats	117	4	—	4
	Ashpits and Privies	426	12	26	21
	Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	106	1	26	26
	Water-Closets	205	4	15	15
House Drainage.	Defective Traps	9	—	3	3
	No Disconnection	—	—	—	—
	Other Faults	102	5	34	30
	Water Supply	48	1	6	6
	Pigsties	210	—	12	11
	Animals improperly kept	16	1	—	1
	Offensive Trades	64	—	—	—
	Smoke Nuisances	12	2	—	1
	Other Nuisances	386	19	127	129
	Vans used as Dwellings	65	—	—	—
	Meat, Fish Shops, and Stalls	356	—	—	—
	Houses Inspected under Housing Acts ...	249	—	—	—
	Visits paid to Cases of Infectious Disease	350	—	—	—
	Visits paid to Cinemas, etc.	26	—	—	—
	Totals ..	3,468	62	297	291

	No.
Seizures of Unwholesome Food	2
Samples of Food taken for Analysis	—
Ditto of Food found Adulterated	—
Ditto of Water taken for Analysis	11
Ditto of Water condemned as unfit for use ...	7

NOTE.—Where an inspection or notice embraces more than one defect, it may be enumerated separately as regards each such defect.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding Stoved or Destroyed ...	163
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	170
Schools ditto ditto ditto	1
Prosecutions for not Notifying Existence of Infectious Disease	—
Convictions for not Notifying Existence of Infectious Disease	—
Prosecutions for Exposure of Infected Persons or Things	—
Convictions ditto ditto ditto ditto	—

(*Signed*) E. C. BOND, Sanitary Inspector.

Harold Ludlow